

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims of the application. The status of the claims is as follows:

- Claims 1-43 and 45-50 are currently pending.
- Claim 5 is canceled herein.
- Claims 1, 6-16, 24, 26, 27, 32, 34, 35, 40, and 45 are amended herein.

Support for the amendments to claims 1, 16, 24, 40, and 45 can be found in the specification, as originally filed, at least at page 13, lines 7-13. The amendments submitted herein do not introduce any new matter.

Previously Cited Documents

The following documents have been applied to previously reject one or more claims of the Application:

- **Adams:** Adams, WO 96/10888
- **Kikinis:** Kikinis, U.S. Patent No. 5,929,849

Claims 1-4, 6-43, and 45-50 Are Non-Obvious Over Kikinis in view of Adams

Claims 1-4, 6-43, and 45-50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Kikinis in view of Adams. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in light of the amendments presented herein. The Office has not previously examined these recitations. Applicant respectfully submits that these new recitations overcome the Office's rejection and are not disclosed, taught or suggested by Kikinis and/or Adams, either alone or in combination.

Conclusion

For at least the foregoing reasons, all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt issuance of the application.

If any issues remain that would prevent allowance of this application, **Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned representative before issuing a subsequent Action.**

Respectfully Submitted,

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Representative for Applicant

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